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Chairman's Message

Soccer can take you from the heights of joy, down to the basement of despair, and then back again in a very short period of time! The last few weeks bear this out. Last weekend a revitalised Cosmos team soundly defeated the high flying Northern Spirit 2-0, whereas it was only the game before that we watched in despair as we failed to make any impression on the travelling Kiwis and lost by the same score. Two weeks ago we lost to the bottom team! Football is like that.

But, even if you feel down or depressed, don't forget that the sweetness of victory is nothing if you haven't tasted the saltiness of defeat. Our day will come, and it's closer than it has ever been. How can I say this? I can because even when your team's performances are up and down, there is still an underlying trend which can be observed. In our case, we are trending upwards, slightly and gradually, but it is upwards. We are currently at our highest position ever for this far into an NSL season, and we have beaten some of the heavy hitting and heavy spending teams in the league on our way up the table. Also, when times are tough, we have to look within ourselves to find the commitment and energy to do better next time. We are a young organisation, and we will learn and become stronger over time. The fundamentals, of youth development, good communication, and a talented team, are in place. With our continued support of our team, and our unity, we will be rewarded.

The news over the past weeks off the field has been dominated by our failure to secure a major sponsor, and the difficulties that will cause for us if the situation doesn't change. I have had to field some really inane stuff from the media, like this gem, "Mr Moulis, if you don't get some money for the club, do you think it will survive?" Of course, when you politely respond by saying that if we don't have any money, we won't be in business, the news article the next day will be headlined as if this answer was something entirely unexpected and dramatic. You, our valued fans, should know this: we don't have all our eggs in one basket, and there are a number of income opportunities that we are pursuing. Our focus must, however, be on having something of value in place which can attract value in return. I firmly believe we are building value in our organisation. Without saying too much, we hope one day soon to make the type of announcement that will show precisely why football is the most international and most valuable sport in the world today.

Before I sign off this week, I did want to mention how proud we are to see our youth players starting to knock on the door of first team selection. If they do get their chance, I am sure you will join with me in giving them the biggest welcome and the best encouragement that we possibly can.

Danny Moulis
Chairman, Canberra Cosmos FC

Canberra Cosmos
Founded: 1995

Address:
Football House,
3 Phipps Close,
Deakin, ACT, 2600

Telephone:
(02) 6281 7981

Facsimile:
(02) 6281 7984

E-mail Address:
info@cosmosfc.com

Home Ground:
Bruce Stadium

Chairman:
Daniel Moulis

Head Coach:
Tom Sermanni

Assistant Coach:
Tony Brennan

Manager:
Tony Borgia

Team Doctor:
Dr. Trevor Law

Physiotherapist:
Julian Russell-Jones

Directors:
Damien Beck
Stephen Forshaw
Jeff Konstantinou
Daniel Moulis
Peter Nichols
Tony Pratezina

Director, Marketing & Media:
Suzanne Jenkins

Marketing & Admin. Secretary:
Elizabeth Vickers

Director, Business Development:
Chris Tanner

Cosmos News - Preview

It becomes more difficult to preview matches as time goes on. One week we defeat last season's champions Wollongong, another week we are defeated by bottom of the table Eastern Pride. Last week we end the unbeaten home record for Northern Spirit with a 2-0 victory.

Tom Sermanni touches on the reason for this apparent inconsistency when he refers to the relative lack of experience at NSL level within his squad. While this may be frustrating for supporters and spectators, it bodes well for continuing improvement. It does us no harm to think back almost exactly two years ago when Tom Sermanni came to the club. We had played about the same number of games we have played so far this season and had not picked up a single point! Doesn't bear thinking about does it?

Our visitors tonight, Adelaide City Force, are playing well and have probably surprised a few people with a consistency that appears to exist regardless of the strength of the team. They come here tonight after a strong 3-0 result against Parramatta last weekend.

Two Adelaide players in particular that Cosmos will need to watch are Claudio Pelosi and the ever-reliable Aurelio Vidmar.

Last season's results against Adelaide were mixed with a 3-0 win for Cosmos at Bruce and a narrow 1-0 loss in Adelaide. This season the points difference between the two sides is just five and on paper at least there doesn't seem to be much between them.

Tom Sermanni has more players to draw on this week. It will be good to see captain Robbie Hooker back on the field and also, hopefully, to welcome Con Anthopoulos from Carlton to join the Cosmos defence. More players available means greater flexibility in strategy.

There isn't a match the Cosmos play that can't be won. Let's hope we see one of them tonight.

John Bonnett

Do you eat to live or live to eat?

One of the major cultural changes that have occurred within Australia in the last 30 years is the importance we place on diet.

We have seen different cuisine come in and out of fashion but one truth remains, we have become a country that lives to eat rather than eats to live.

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Sermanni Says...

Last week's 2-0 victory over Northern Spirit in Sydney was great for two reasons. Firstly, because it signalled a return to better form and secondly, because it ended a three match losing sequence. It was important for us to change this losing sequence as quickly as possible. So last week's result was a particularly good one for us.

Hopefully we will have some more players on deck for tonight's match. The signs are promising that we will have completed the signing of former Carlton defender Con Anthopoulos and have him take the field. There was still some negotiating and organisation to sort out earlier in the week but Con is keen to join us and we have been doing our utmost to bring him to the club.

Robbie Hooker should be back after recovering from his hamstring strain and Andy Rakic will be returning from suspension. I'm always cautious about anticipating the availability of players, as we seem to suffer unexpected mishaps that continually leave us short of a full compliment of players to choose from.

Marcus Phillips has been diagnosed as having a hernia which will need an operation and is likely to sideline him for up to 8 weeks. This is a big blow for both Marcus and the team. We will miss his passing skills and midfield organisation and drive.

We are fortunate however in that both Nick Purdue and Andy Ravenello are fit and in terrific form. The return of Milton Cortes has also helped because he gives us that extra creativity and can cause havoc in opposition defences.

With more positive signs on the playing front I will have had a close look at Adelaide City during the week before deciding on tonight's line-up.

The youth team is holding its own at the moment and mirrored the first team result with a tremendous 2-0 away win against a very talented Northern Spirit Youth Team. Goals from Paul Ivanic and Ryan O'Grady sealed the victory. It's also good to see both Stephen Kemp and Daniel Camara on their way back from injury.

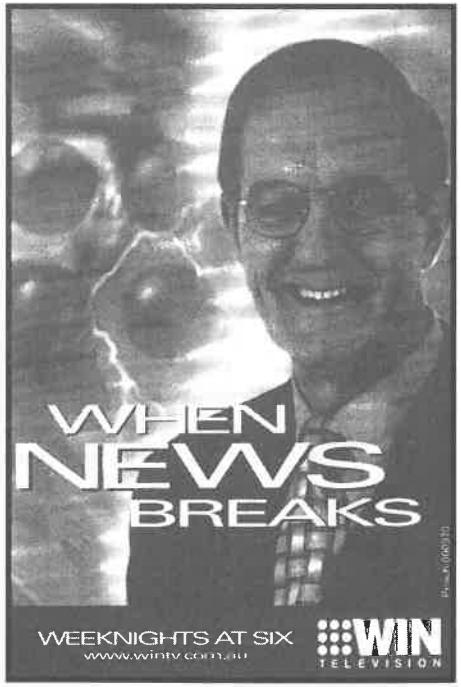
We have always stressed that the youth team's results are not of paramount importance. Success of the UC Youth Cosmos will be measured by the number of players who will come through the system and play for the first team.

The Cosmos squad as a whole (and I include the youth side) is much healthier than when I came to the club two years ago. The signs and the promise are far greater now than at any time during my tenure. But I must stress that it will still take time to achieve consistent results on the field. We need to maintain stability to achieve consistency. Our performances are still inconsistent, however this is mainly due to the lack of NSL experience within our ranks. We must keep working to improve our players, increase our demands and expectations of each other and foster a competitive and supportive environment within our team.

We've kicked off the New Year with success and will do our best for it to continue. The Cosmos squad joins me in wishing all of you a happy and healthy New Year.

Tom Sermanni
Head Coach, Canberra Cosmos FC

We would like to acknowledge the Canberra Chronicle for it's support with this article.



Football Facts

Offside

Question: *Can a player score a goal or an own goal directly from a free kick awarded for offside? (Answer at bottom)*

In the 2001 edition of the FIFA Laws of the Game the Offside Law does not take up a lot of space. For a law that supplies endless debate and controversy amongst passionate supporters, FIFA provides quite a simple explanation. Basically it goes: "it is not in itself an offence to be in an offside position". A player is only in an offside position if "he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent." A player **cannot** be offside if he is in his own half, or level with the second last opponent or level with the last two opponents.

A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches, or is played by, one of his team, he is **in the opinion of the referee**, involved in **active** play by interfering with play or interfering with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position.

Being an effective assistant referee is an extremely complex skill that demands total concentration for the whole of the game. Assistants often get the bird from the crowd for offside decisions, but the spectators have not been concentrating on the area of play of the offside and are never in line with the second last defender as the assistant is. Nine times out of ten the assistant is proved correct when videos are analysed later, and the matter has become even more complex with the referee now encouraged to over-rule the assistants' flag for offside when they consider the player flagged for offside was not involved in active play. What constitutes active play is another argument that will continue to be debated and needs more space to elaborate upon.

A player cannot be offside if he receives the ball directly from a goal kick, corner kick or throw in.

Answer: *In both cases, the answer is 'No'. The free kick for offside is **indirect**. The correct restart is a goal kick or corner kick.*

Chris Conti

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National Youth Team Lists

Australian Institute of Sport

1 Rade Kosanovic
2 Aidan Griffiths
3 Dom Labutte
4 Luke Morgan
5 Ryan O'Grady
6 Phillip Yarnold
7 Stephen Kemp
8 Daniel Byrne
9 Daniel Raad
10 Brent Turner
11 Adam Williams
12 Yosef Zamora
13 Daniel Aliffi
14 Daniel Camara
15 Paul Ivanic
16 Ned Aleksic
17 Mile Kosanovic
18 Michael McKenna
19 Stephen Lee

Adam Hrehoresin
Nathan Coe
Mitchell Prentice
Steve Pantelidis
Niall Fay
Ray Sekulovski
John Richter
Matt McKay
David Tarka
Tallan Martin
Mitchell Johnson
Evan Metanomski
Wayne Heath
Antonio Naglieri
Joel Grenell
Chris Tanchevski
Dustin Wells
Carl Valeri
Terry Smith
Sean Walsh

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited. Offenders will be arrested and charged.

Match Day Team Lists

1 Angelo Konstantinou
3 Toplica Popovich
4 Andy Ravanello
5 Nic Purdue
6 Naoki Imaya
7 Mark Hagger
8 David Milin
9 Alex Castro
10 Jon Angelucci
11 David Arranz
12 Milton Cortes
13 Shane Lyons
14 Andy Rakic
15 Marcus Phillips
16 Ilija Prenzoski
17 Robbie Hooker
18 Brad Scott
19 Hiroshi Miyazawa
20 Barney Smith

Head Coach: Tom Sermanni
Assistant Coach: Tony Brennan

1 Adrian Cagalj
2 Gianluca Lagati
4 Ante Kovacevic
5 Fabrizio Bucciarelli
6 Louis Brain
8 Carl Veart
9 Nick Sabljak
10 Aurelio Vidmar
11 Bradley Hassell
12 Scott Tunbridge
13 Kristian Rees
14 Aaron Goulding
15 Lucas Pantelis
16 David Terminello
17 Mario Karlovic
18 Ivan Karlovic
19 Claudio Pelosi
20 Daniel Goldey
21 Neil Childs
22 Shane Thompson
23 Nick Budin
24 Nathan Day
25 Owen Filewood

Coach: Zoran Matic

The City Club

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UC Youth Cosmos - Player Profile

Daniel Camara

Despite a major injury setback, 19-year-old striker Daniel Camara remains upbeat about his debut year for the UC Youth Cosmos.

"It's a big step up for me because I haven't played in any Academy squads or anything like that," Daniel says. "This is my first year in the Youth League, but I'm handling it pretty well and I'm enjoying it a lot."

ACT soccer fans will be well acquainted with Daniel, who scored 17 goals for Belconnen United in their ACT Premier League grand final winning team last year. Daniel looked to be continuing his good form with the Youth Cosmos this season before a Grade 2 tear of ligaments in his left ankle during the team's 1-1 draw with the Wollongong Wolves in Round Seven put him on Tony Brennan's long-term injury list.

The injury has forced Daniel to watch from the sidelines for the past five matches-a frustrating situation, but one that has allowed him to analyse the team's performances.

While impressed by the professionalism of many of the other clubs in the competition, Daniel believes his side's standing on the ladder does not reflect their level of ability.

"We've been letting ourselves down I think, when we should be really getting results. We have the potential certainly," he says.

Now back to full fitness, Daniel is hoping to pick up where he left off.

A management student at UC, Daniel's career goals are well defined, but he's remaining level-headed and taking things one step at a time. His first aim is to break into Tom Sermanni's first team, and he then hopes to play well enough to be offered a contract in the NSL next year - hopefully with the Cosmos.

Greg Welsh

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Supporters Club

Happy New Year and welcome to the 21st Century. The Supporters Club hopes everyone had an enjoyable and safe New Year holiday and extends best wishes for the year ahead.

Tonight is our first home game for 2001, and already the New Year is off to a great start with an away win last week. Our highly successful away trips to NSW-based games have recommenced for 2001 and those who were on the bus to North Sydney last Friday had a great time, enjoying some exciting football and a celebrating a brilliant Cosmos win. We've now been described as "a dancing and singing group of our loyal travelling supporters," which I think just about sums it up.

For those who wish to join our merry band for our next and last foray into Sydney, it will be to the match against Sydney Olympic on Sunday 1 April 2001, time and venue to be confirmed. Please contact Andrew McDonald on (02) 6266-2329 for details or e-mail: cosmosbus@yahoo.com. Alternatively, talk to the Supporters Club committee members at Bruce Stadium home games at half time. Coach ticket prices are $25, or $10 for children under 15. This will entitle supporters to a return seat on our luxury coach. Cosmos Supporters Club members will receive a discount on the price of the fare.

Additional information about away trips can be found on the Supporters Club page at the Canberra Cosmos website, www.cosmosfc.com.

Watch the websites for details regarding the next trip and for possibilities of supporters planning trips to matches in other states and/or NZ.

Special Membership Offer Extended

Join the Cosmos Supporters Club and receive membership at special rates. These are: adults $10, juniors (under 17) $5 and families $20.

The fee entitles members to a newsletter "Cosmic Kick", invitation to members functions, a discount on Cosmos away bus trips and a discount of 50% on the "Canberra Cosmos Supporters Anthem" CD by Ice Cream Headache.

Cheques and money orders payable to Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club can be posted to: Canberra Cosmos Supporters Club, PO Box 4136, KINGSTON, ACT 2604.

Inquiries can be directed to Supporters Club President, Peter Kunz, via e-mail at: plkunz@ozemail.com.au or by telephone on (02) 6281-2900 (ah).

The City Club and ACTION Buses "shuttle" service continues. On Match Day supporters can meet at the City Club for a few pre-match drinks at "Happy Hour" prices and get a ride to and from the game on the bright red CITY CLUB COSMOS EXPRESS. The "shuttle" will depart from The City Club at around 5.45pm and return from Bruce at 8.45pm. Passengers can then join other Cosmos fans and City Club members for post-match festivities at The City Club, where they will also receive a complimentary glass of TOOHEYS NEW. For further details about this brilliant arrangement for City Club members and guests, supporters should contact the club on 6248-8917. Members are also encouraged to check out the special deals on City Club membership.

Tonight, Adelaide City Force return to Bruce. The Supporters Club is looking forward to some exciting and classy football action, in what we expect to be a challenging encounter. Our best wishes to our Canberra Cosmos for tonight's match against Adelaide City Force, the first NSL football match at Bruce Stadium for the new Millennium.

Ooh aah Can-ber-ra! Say, ooh aah Can-ber-ra!!!

Darren M. Churchill Tel: (0412) 196-473

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National Youth League Table

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1	A.I.S.	12	10	1	1	31	10	31
2	Marconi Stallions	11	8	2	1	21	5	26
3	Parramatta Power	12	7	1	4	35	19	22
4	Northern Spirit	11	7	1	3	23	11	22
5	Wollongong Wolves	11	6	3	2	26	11	21
6	Marconi Stallions Colts	12	6	0	6	27	19	18
7	Sydney Olympic	11	5	2	4	24	22	17
8	Sydney United	12	5	1	6	21	23	17
9	Newcastle United	11	5	1	5	15	11	15
10	**Canberra Cosmos**	**12**	**4**	**3**	**5**	**25**	**23**	**15**
11	N.S.W.I.S.	12	4	2	6	11	22	14
12	Q.A.S.	12	4	1	7	20	32	13
13	Sydney Olympic Acad.	11	1	3	7	11	20	6
14	ACT Academy	11	1	1	9	5	41	4
15	Newcastle United Colts	9	1	0	8	4	29	3

National Soccer League Table

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1	South Melbourne	13	7	4	1	26	8	28
2	Wollongong Wolves	13	7	3	2	27	16	27
3	Perth Glory	13	6	3	3	29	13	24
4	Sydney Olympic	13	6	3	3	22	13	24
5	Parramatta Power	13	7	1	5	20	16	22
6	Adelaide City Force	13	6	1	5	23	24	22
7	Marconi Stallions	13	4	5	3	17	12	20
8	Northern Spirit	13	4	4	4	16	13	19
9	Melbourne Knights	13	4	3	5	21	20	18
10	**Canberra Cosmos**	**13**	**4**	**2**	**6**	**23**	**22**	**17**
11	Sydney United	13	3	4	5	18	23	16
12	Kingz FC	13	3	3	6	20	22	15
13	Brisbane Strikers	13	3	4	6	21	27	13
14	Newcastle United	13	1	6	5	12	22	12
15	Eastern Pride	13	1	4	7	18	23	10
16	Carlton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Do You Really Know What You Think You Know?

Soccer Referees Canberra are conducting two courses for those who would like to improve their knowledge of the game and, hopefully, become a referee. Refereeing is a great way to stay involved in the game and keep fit. It can be utilised to reach the highest level or to help out at junior matches. It's a great way to make friends and meet new people, so if you're interested contact Ben Williams on 0438 316 089.

Senior Course (18+) Mon 22 Jan from 6.00 to 9.30 at the Civic RSL, Moore Street
Junior Course Wed 24 Jan from 8.30am to 4.00pm also at the Civic RSL

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Autographs

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After the game, the players will be available next to the Cosmos dugout to sign autographs

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